

NAFTA: STOP TAKING AMERICAN WORKERS TO THE CLEANERS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, we would all have enough money to pay for Medicare if the jobs in our country paid high enough wages to cover the cost of benefits. But, my friends, yesterday the Commerce Department reported again that our Nation is suffering the worst trade performance in our Nation's history.

In April through June of this year, our current account deficit, the broadest measure of trade performance, jumped to \$43.6 billion more in the whole, the worst results in history.

The key reasons cited for this worsening record are our growing trade debt with Mexico, and that translates into more lost jobs, more lost benefits in this country for our workers.

So now in Florida we have 100 more packinghouses out of business, ground to the ground, and 14,000 tomato workers out of work. In Milwaukee, WI, we have 7,000 more people laid off from Briggs & Stratton, jobs moved to Mexico, and in Topeka, workers at the Celophane plant there just had their wages cut to \$8 an hour from an \$11-an-hour level before.

Let us go back to the drawing boards, recast NAFTA and stop taking our workers to the cleaners in this country.

GOP TAX CUTS: SOME FACTS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, for months House Democrats have battered about tax cuts for the rich. They have distorted our plan to balance the budget and increase the take-home pay of working families as a mean-spirited attempt to provide a boondoggle to wealthy Americans and corporations.

Here are the facts: 74 percent of the largest tax cut in our budget, the \$500 per child tax credit goes to families earning less than \$75,000. This profamily tax break will remove 4.7 million families at the lowest income levels from the Federal income tax rolls.

Furthermore, 70 percent of the benefits of lower capital gains taxes go to families and individuals with incomes of less than \$50,000. And we must keep in mind that cutting capital gains taxes provides incentives for investment in new businesses and high paying jobs that benefit all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know about you, but working parents earning between \$50,000 and \$75,000 a year in my district do not consider themselves rich. We must start telling the truth about the GOP tax cuts. They are good for families and the economy. Allowing

families to keep more of what they earn and laying the foundation for long-term economic growth is not mean-spirited. It is exactly what the American people voted for last November.

RATIFY THE CONVENTION TO END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

(Ms. HARMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, at the U.N. Fourth Conference on Women, it was the First Lady, Hillary Clinton, who said there is no one formula for how women should lead our lives.

I was there as a member of the bipartisan U.S. congressional delegation, and her remarks rang true to a crowd as diverse and multihued as it was experienced and dedicated. The label radical may fit a few—very few—attendees, but it does not fit the conference. The tenor was all business, and the conversation was realistic about the conflicts between work and child-bearing and about building on the substantial record created by previous U.N. gatherings.

Building on a record means action for the United States, as well as China and other countries, and the first action the United States must take here is to ratify CEDAW, the Convention to End Discrimination Against Women, which was submitted for ratification in 1980 and has been pending in the U.S. Senate for 15 years.

Yesterday a group of us called on the Senate to act now. It is embarrassing that 144 countries around the world, including all industrialized countries, have ratified CEDAW and we have not. Act now. Ratify CEDAW.

OCTOBER 1: A DAY OF ATONEMENT

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk about the October 1 train wreck. This is the Washington term for the day that the Government runs out of money, and in order to get more money, the Congress has to increase the debt ceiling or close down the Government.

Yet the idea of laying off a few bureaucrats is scary to some. In fact, a day without Government to the Democrats is as bad as a day without baseball to Cal Ripken. But it is time to call the question: Do we as a nation want to continue status quo deficit spending, or do we want to balance the budget and get our House in order?

This is what is at stake. October 1 is not a coming train wreck, but a day of atonement. The American people have spoken. They want a balanced budget. Let us give it to them.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CUTS

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it appears that the architect of the Republican revolution has not seen the blueprint.

On Sunday, Speaker GINGRICH stated that the Republican Medicare cuts would mean only 7 dollars in increased monthly premiums for Medicare recipients, but yesterday Republican staff corrected the Speaker and admitted that their plan would increase Medicare premiums by \$32 a month, not the \$7 a month the Speaker claimed.

The Republican-controlled Congressional Budget Office estimates that the GOP plan will actually increase premiums by \$56.50 a month.

Why all the confusion? Because, it is not just the American people who are being kept in the dark about the Republican party's plan to cut \$270 billion from Medicare to finance a tax cut for the wealthy. The Republican leadership is also in the dark.

If there is a GOP Medicare plan, it must be written in invisible ink, because nobody has seen it, not even the Speaker.

□ 1030

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PETROLEUM MUSEUM

(Mr. COMBEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the petroleum museum in Midland, TX. This nonprofit educational and technical museum highlighting the exciting story of the oil and gas industry was opened by President Gerald Ford on September 13, 1975. It has grown to be one of the top tourist attractions for the Permian Basin and the entire State of Texas.

As one who has toured the museum myself, I was greatly impressed and I would highly recommend a tour for anyone who will be visiting the Permian Basin of Texas and would like to uncover the history of this oil-rich region. The idea for a petroleum museum began in the 1950's and it became a reality through the hard work, dedication, and generosity of the Permian Basin's business and petroleum leaders. Through the past 20 years, many changes have taken place at the museum including an additional wing, educational programs, exhibits, acquisitions of artifacts, archival material, and books.

Countless numbers of schoolchildren and adults have toured the museum learning more about the gasoline that fuels your car to the energy that runs your home. Its fascinating exhibits range from the life-size murals of the hearty men and women who tamed the

Permian Basin oil patch to the outdoor exhibit which consists of the world's largest collection of the antique drilling and production equipment. I congratulate the petroleum museum staff and volunteers on 20 wonderful years and look forward to their second 20 so our children and our children's children may continue to discover and explore the inspiring story of the domestic oil and gas industry. In my 10 years in Congress, I have worked consistently to make sure that evidence of the domestic oil and gas industry should not be found only in museums.

FIXING MEDICARE WITHOUT CUTTING BENEFITS

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I think Americans are concerned that they need some straight talk on Medicare. The Medicare system is not bankrupt; do not be fooled. Yes, the Medicare system does need adjustment; that is what the trustees said in a Los Angeles Times article last week, and I think we on the Democratic side are willing to make adjustments.

Mr. Speaker, the point is we can make adjustments, we can even make reasonable cuts, without affecting benefits, but on the Republican side, however, they want to cut benefits, and the fact is that seniors will be harmed when we cut benefits, and they will be harmed not to save Medicare or not to reduce the deficit, but specifically to give a tax break to the wealthy.

Let us look at the figures. I say to my colleagues, "If you are wealthy and make \$300,000, you'll get a tax break of \$20,000. If you make \$200,000, you'll get a tax break of \$11,000. But if you're an average American and make about \$35,000 to \$50,000, you'll only get \$500. That's a tax break for the wealthy."

I will make a deal. Cut the tax break for the wealthy, and we can work out a reasonable Medicare Program.

THE CHOICE IS CLEAR

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I am holding in my left hand appropriately the Clinton Democrats' budget plan. Let us just take a look. As my colleagues know, there is nothing in here about balancing the budget, and there is nothing in here about saving Medicare either. Cutting taxes? Well, no, there is nothing in here about cutting taxes either. It kind of makes my wonder if my liberal friends got the message from the American people last September.

Please see the American people want a budget written for them, not for the liberal social engineers in the west wing of the White House. They want a

budget that our new majority is ready to approve, a balanced budget, a plan to save Medicare and tax cuts for the middle class along with genuine welfare reform.

Mr. Speaker, the choice is clear. This fall we can enact the agenda of the American people or we can follow the tired old remedies of the liberal do-nothing Democrats. I hope all of my colleagues in this Chamber will do the right thing, reject this plan and adopt a true rational budget plan for the American people.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET UNDERMINES SENIORS' ECONOMIC SECURITY

(Mr. HINCHEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I think what the American people want is economic opportunity and economic security. Let us just talk a minute about correct security. One of the things that the Republican budget does is to undermine one of the most effective aspects of that economic security that has been established in this country over the last 30 years. That is the Medicare Program. Speaker GINGRICH last Sunday would have us believe that his cuts amount to only \$7, but his own budget office tells us that those cuts, the amount of money coming out of seniors' pockets, will be as much as \$56 a month.

Mr. Speaker, we know what is going on here. They do not like the Medicare Program. They want to privatize it. They want to put it on vouchers and coupons so people will go back to the old days when they did not have any economic security, when they had to worry about health care and when families had to worry about their elderly parents and grandparents. Let us not do that. Let us not balance this budget on the backs of the senior citizens of this country in order to give a tax break to the wealthiest people who do not need it and most of whom have the good sense not to want it.

WHY LIBERALS ARE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, back home, the crustiest old farmers, who are not as conservationist as our generation, deal with endangered predators the way liberals have dealt with Medicare.

Their expression for the easy way out is this: "Shoot, shovel, and shut up."

In the same way, Washington liberals—who tried to dismantle the health care system one short year ago—today are trying to bury the Medicare crisis for political reasons.

Here is the drill:

First of all, they shoot. On the air and on the floor, liberals attack those working to salvage Medicare, claiming the effort will require terrible, draconian measures.

Second, they shovel. My colleagues know what I mean.

Liberals float numbers with no basis. They spread misinformation and use scare tactics with the flimsiest of evidence.

Third, they shut up. They refuse to discuss the fact that Medicare is going broke.

The White House strategy of "Shoot, shovel and shut up" is backfiring as people who know Medicare is going broke see the plan to save it as responsible and sound.

Maybe that is why liberals are an endangered species around here.

DEMOCRATS CANNOT WAIT TO SEE THE REPUBLICANS' PLAN

(Mr. COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, let me just tell my colleagues what continues to be referred to here as somehow Democrats on my side of the aisle are concerned about what all my colleagues are about to do to Medicare. Well, we are, and the fact of the matter is we do not have the evidence about what our colleagues are going to do yet. Where is it? Our colleagues have been telling us now for months that they are going to fix it, they are going to cut it, they are going to cut its outlay problems and all the rest, and then they tell us, "But it is going to be an increase; we're going to increase Medicare by a couple of percent." Whatever it is; let us say it is 4 or 5, they are going to increase it. That sounds good. The problem is health care costs are going up at 9 or 10.

Well, some of us think back from third-grade math class that that is a cut of 4 or 5 percent. Now that is a cut unless we are going to freeze wages and prices. As my colleagues know, their party has done that before. Some of us remember when Dick Nixon did it. Is that the plan?

We are interested in knowing what the plan is. My colleagues are right. We do not have all the evidence. We are waiting. We cannot wait to see our colleagues' plan because I am afraid that what our colleagues are going to do is adversely affect all senior citizens in America.

REPUBLICANS GIVING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, I think a short history lesson is in order, especially after the previous speeches. First of all, in the private